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Chemical Firm Fined

By Bob von Sternberg
Staff Writer

State environmental officials have fined a Wichita chemical supply firm \$7,000 for improperly storing hazardous wastes.

During an inspection last April of Reid Supply Co., 2549 N. New York, officials said they found about 1,300 barrels of toxic acids, sludges and chemicals stored at the plant — 800 more barrels than permitted.

A spokesman for the chemical supply and recycling company declined to comment and said he did not know whether company officials plan to appeal.

The barrels of waste pose no health threat to the public because the plant is in an industrial park, at least seven blocks from the nearest house, said a Kansas Department of Health and Environment spokesman.

Company officials have agreed

to clean up the plant and eliminate all unsafe conditions by July 1, the spokesman said.

Reid Supply, which buys various industrial chemicals, then recycles them, has not been fined by KDHE before.

When officials of KDHE and the Environmental Protection Agency inspected the plant, they found wastes leaking from some drums. They also found some drums that could not be inspected. In addition, some wastes were stored alongside others that could pose a danger if the substances combined, the inspectors said.

Finally, the inspectors said some of the drums were stored outside a covered and fenced area.

All of the problems were violations of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the federal law that regulates hazardous wastes, the department said.



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Rising production items such as fertilizers are a problem so you would think researchers, whose help farmers, would investigate methods those costs.

Not so. Alternative techniques that reduce the use of chemicals scorned by the agricultural establishment. The U.S. Department of Agriculture under Secretary Block has appeared hostile to research and dissemination of methods of farming.

Organic farming is a phrase for the type that eschews man-made fertilizers and pesticides, relies on natural fertilizers and such as crop rotation and pest control. There once was a mystique to organic farming, but unscientific claims for its benefits have diminished its appeal. That is part of the reason why establishment agricultural scientists look at it with skepticism.

Scientists are superstitious, but they are also skeptical, but they are also posed to be curious.

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